Conflict in *Deadly Unna?*

It is generally understood that all stories (whether they are novels, films, oral, short stories, plays and the like) have at least one type of **conflict** in order to create suspense and keep the reader interested in finding out how the protagonist will solve the complication and thus resolve the conflict before the story feels ‘complete’ to the reader.

*Deadly Unna?* has a **number of conflicts** interwoven throughout the story and we know from our plot graphs and our character concept maps that Blacky needs to stand up to his father (the antagonist, Bob Black) before the reader will feel any sense of resolution. Thus, the climax, or turning point, in the novel is when Blacky refuses to put the paint and paint brush down when his father demands that he does so.

Firstly, then, what is this type of conflict? Look at the list below and match up examples from the text for each conflict type. BEWARE! There are some deliberately misleading examples as well as types of conflict that DON’T exist in *Deadly Unna?* to ensure you’ve read the novel and understood it!!! ☺

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| Conflict between characters (interpersonal conflict) | “Then I woke up. I was on the floor. I’d been thrown out of my bunk. The boat was pitching and rolling…I got up.” |
| Conflict within characters (intrapersonal conflict) | “And we hated them. We hated them because they came from the city, and we didn’t.” |
| Conflict between characters and nature | “There was a voice in my head…Don’t mess with momentum, Blacky. It maims.” |
| Conflict between socio-economic classes | “ ‘Where have you been?’ said Mum as I walked through the door… ‘To Dumby’s funeral,’ I said… ‘In that tie?’ she said… ‘Well, I hope nobody took exception,’ she said.” |
| Conflict between individuals and power-groups | “’They should do something about it, shouldn’t they?’ I said. ‘I daresay they should, young’un. I daresay they should.’” |
| Conflict between religious groups | “Lovely turned to look at me. ‘Whatta reckon, budda?’ he said, not smiling, his face hard.” |
| Conflict between cultures | “ ‘Are they coming up here?’ said Cathy. She sounded scared. ‘Maybe,’ I said. But I was hoping they wouldn’t.” |
| Conflict between races | “ ‘Froggies, wogs, they’re all the same, aren’t they?’” |

Next, rate the types of conflict using 1-10 as to their importance and prevalence in the novel. Justify your answer. Find another set of quotations to illustrate each of the three main types of conflict. These will be very useful for your text response and end-of-year examination!